

CLAIMS

1. An investment machine for public use and display, the investment machine comprising:
- a. a housing;
 - b. a display at least partially enclosed by the housing and viewable by an investor adjacent to the housing;
 - c. an investor identifier at least partially enclosed within the housing and configured to receive a unique identifier from the investor;
 - d. a money receiver at least partially enclosed within the housing and configured to receive and identify money to be invested; and
 - e. a processor at least partially enclosed within the housing and configured to receive input from the investor identifier and to transmit a signal representative of the input for use in investing at least a portion of the money in association with the unique identifier received from the investor.
2. The investment machine of claim 1, further comprising an investment selector interface configured to receive an investment preference from the investor and transmit the investment preference to the processor.
3. The investment machine of claim 2, wherein the investment selection interface includes at least one of a touch screen display, a touch sensitive surface, and a button.
4. The investment machine of claim 2, wherein the investment selector is configured to receive the investment preference from the investor at substantially the same time as the money receiver receives and identifies the money to be invested.

1 5. The investment machine of claim 1, further comprising a network communication
2 connection coupled to the processor, the network communication connection
3 configured to couple the processor of the investment machine to a central
4 processor configured to store and coordinate investments made at each of a
5 plurality of investment machines.

1 6. The investment machine of claim 5, wherein the network communication
2 connection is further configured to couple the processor of the investment
3 machine to the central processor at substantially the same time as the investor
4 identifier receives the unique identifier from the investor.

1 7. The investment machine of claim 1, wherein the display is configured to display at
2 least one of investment information, advertising information, and account
3 information.

1 8. The investment machine of claim 7, wherein the advertising information is
2 selected on the basis of one or more of an investor's investment activities, an
3 investor's personal information, a location at which the investment machine is
4 located and an identity of a sponsor of the investment machine.

1 9. The investment machine of claim 7, wherein the advertising information is one or
2 more of an informational presentation, a tutorial, a news story, and other
3 information relating to a particular company or its product in which an investor
4 may desire to invest.

1 10. The investment machine of claim 1, wherein the money receiver is configured to
2 receive one or more of a coin, a bill, a magnetic strip card, a bar code, a smart card
3 and an alphanumeric code.

1 11. The investment machine of claim 1, further comprising an investment report
2 disburser associated with the processor and configured to disburse a report
3 associated with the investor's unique identifier.

1 12. A method of investing money, the method comprising:
2 associating a unique identifier with at least one person;
3 receiving money at an investment machine from the at least one person;
4 receiving current investment preferences through the investment machine from the at
5 least one person; and
6 investing at least a portion of the money on behalf of the at least one person in accordance
7 with the current investment preferences.

1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein receiving money at an investment machine
2 comprises receiving at least one of a coin, a bill, a magnetic strip card, a bār code,
3 a smart card and an alphanumeric code.

1 14. The method of claim 12, wherein receiving current investment preferences
2 through the investment machine comprises receiving at least one of an indication
3 from the investor that an investment option provided by the processor is preferred,
4 an investment option preselected by the investor is preferred, and an investment
5 option provided by the investor at the time of the indication is preferred.

1 15. A method of investing money using an investment machine, the method
2 comprising:
3 inputting a unique identifier into an investment machine;
4 placing money to be invested into the investment machine; and
5 selecting a current investment preference option at the investment machine.

1 16. The method of claim 15, further comprising receiving an investment report from
2 the investment machine.

1 17. The method of claim 15, wherein the money to be invested is in the form of at
2 least one of a coin, a bill, a magnetic strip card, a bar code, a smart card and an
3 alphanumeric code.

1 18. A method of promoting investment activities, the method comprising:
2 providing an investor with an investment code having associated therewith an investable
3 amount of money;
4 receiving the investment card or investment code at a location for investing;
5 associating a unique identifier with the investor; and
6 investing at least a portion of the investable amount of money on behalf of the investor in
7 association with the unique identifier.

1 19. The method of claim 18, wherein providing the investor with the investment code
2 comprises printing the investment code on a printed sales receipt in association
3 with a commercial transaction.

1 20. The method of claim 19, wherein the investment code is printed in the form of
2 one of a magnetic code, a bar code, an electronic code, and an alphanumeric code.

1 21. The method of claim 18, wherein the investment code is provided as an
2 investment card for insertion into an investment machine.

1 22. The method of claim 18, wherein the location for investing is one of an
2 investment machine and an Internet site.

1 23. The method of claim 18, wherein providing an investor with the investment code
2 comprises providing the investment code as a promotional item.

1 24. The method of claim 23, wherein the investment code is provided on the basis of
2 one of a reward for an investor activity and an encouragement for investors to use
3 an investment machine.

1 25. The method of claim 18, wherein providing an investor with the investment code
2 comprises selling the investment code as a gift item.

1 26. The method of claim 18, wherein providing an investor with the investment code
2 comprises offering the investment code in exchange for money paid in
3 conjunction with a commercial transaction.

1 27. The method of claim 18, wherein the unique identifier is associated with the
2 investment card or investment code prior to receiving the investment card or
3 investment code at the location for investing.

1 28. A method of investing comprising:
2 refraining from spending a sum of money, and
3 investing at least a portion of the sum of money through an investment machine.

1 29. The method of claim 28, wherein refraining from spending a sum of money is
2 done in association with a commercial business, and investing the portion of the
3 sum of money through an investment machine is done within the same
4 commercial business.

1 30. The method of claim 29, wherein the sum of money is unrelated to any other
2 commercial transaction of the commercial business.

- add a^3

[illegible]